

FISH FAUNA OF TRIPURA, NORTH-EAST INDIA¹

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Key words: Tripura, fish fauna, biogeography

The present paper deals with a synopsis of 129 fish species under 78 genera, 33 families and 11 orders from the rivers of Tripura giving their scientific names along with local and English names. Biogeography of these fishes are also discussed.

Tripura is a hilly state lying in the sub-Himalayan zone; its various physiographical nature has contributed to the formation of a diverse fish fauna. A perusal of the existing literature on the fish fauna of Tripura shows that there has not been a comprehensive survey of the fish fauna potential and there is no consolidated account of the fishes of the state. This region deserves an extensive fish faunal survey to assess species new to the state and even new to science. An attempt has, therefore, been made to conduct at a thorough survey of the fish faunal resources and to prepare a consolidated account of the fish fauna of Tripura. Three field surveys (1985, 1989 and 1990) covered almost all the important fish landing centres of the state. In the preparation of the present list of fishes, I have also included all the fishes recorded by earlier workers in addition to my own collections. The fishes collected belong to 129 species under 78 genera, 32 families and 11 orders, and comprise both riverine and torrential stream forms, along with some freshwater-visiting marine fishes or, in other words, migratory species. The list of fishes is given in Table 1 with scientific name, as well as local and English names.

DISCUSSION AND BIOGEOGRAPHY

This study is an attempt to provide a con-

solidated account of all the fishes so far known from Tripura. This account includes the fishes collected by me and the fishes recorded by earlier workers, namely Nair (1977), Datta (1977), Lipton (1983-84), Bhattacharya (1988) and Barman (1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992). The rivers of Tripura flow to the river Meghna in Bangladesh and the topographical condition and hydrology hardly allow any riverine fishery within Tripura. It is interesting to note that most of the fishes of Tripura are common to both the Indo-Gangetic drainage and south-east Asian fishes. The occurrence of these fishes in the sub-Himalayan region of Tripura is of special significance in the geography of fishes of the North-Eastern India and that of the Indo-Malayan Archipelago. The presence of some of the marine and estuarine fishes such as *Pisodonophis boro*, *Hilsa ilisha* and *Nematolosa nasus* etc. in the rivers of Tripura may be explained that these fishes may have migrated from the Bay of Bengal through the River Gumti which falls into the River Meghna (in Comilla district of Bangladesh) which in turn falls into the Bay of Bengal. Besides this River Gumti, the largest river of Tripura, the state has two tidal rivers, namely, the Fenny and the Muhuri, through these two tidal rivers migration of some marine fishes might be possible. The detailed systematic studies of 129 fish species under 33 families and 11 orders have already been completed and will be incorporated in the State Fauna of Tripura.

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TABLE 1

Scientific names	Local names	English names
Family: ANGUILLIDAE		
1. <i>Anguilla bengalensis bengalensis</i> (Gray & Hardwicke)	Eel	Long-finned eel
Family: OPHICHTHIDAE		
2. <i>Pisodonophis boro</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Ghaoura	Low-finned eel
Family: CLUPEIDAE		
3. <i>Hilsa ilisha</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Ilish	Indian shad, Hilsa shad
4. <i>Gudusia chapra</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Khoira, Chapila	Ganges shad
5. <i>Nematolosa nasus</i> (Bloch)	Nil	Bloch's gizzard shad
Family: NOTOPTERIDAE		
6. <i>Notopterus chitala</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Chital	Humped feather fish
7. <i>Notopterus notopterus</i> (Pallas)	Phouli	Feather back fish
Family: CYPRINIDAE		
8. <i>Chela (Chela) cachius</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Chapkhowari, Kachhi	Chela
9. <i>Chela (Chela) laubuca</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Chapkhowari, Dankena, Layubuka	Winged rasbora
10. <i>Salmostoma bacaila</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Chela, Jellahri	Chela
11. <i>Salmostoma clupeoides</i> (Bloch)	Selkona	Chela
12. <i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i> (Valenciennes)	Silver carp	Silver carp
13. <i>Esomus danricus</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Darkina	Flying barb
14. <i>Danio aequipinnatus</i> (McClelland)	Ghila	Giant danio
15. <i>Danio dangila</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Naptamach	Danio

TABLE 1 (Contd.)

	Scientific names	Local names	English names
16.	<i>Danio devario</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Bashpata	Danio
17.	<i>Danio rerio</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Anju	Zebra fish
18.	<i>Rasbora daniconius daniconius</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Darkina	Common rasbora
19.	<i>Rasbora elanga</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Elang	Rasbora
20.	<i>Aspidoparia jaya</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Chola, Barila	Aspidoparia
21.	<i>Aspidoparia morar</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Morari, Morar	Aspidoparia
22.	<i>Amblypharyngodon mola</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Maka	Mola, Indian carplet
23.	<i>Barilius barila</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Gilland, Caedra	Hill trout
24.	<i>Barilius barna</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Bhola, Ghol	Hill trout
25.	<i>Barilius bendelisis</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Khoksa, Joia	Hill trout
26.	<i>Barilius gatensis</i> (Valenciennes)	Nil	River carp
27.	<i>Barilius nelsoni</i> Barman	Nil	Hill trout
28.	<i>Barilius shacra</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Koksha	Hill trout
29.	<i>Barilius tileo</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Nil	Hill trout
30.	<i>Raimas bola</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Bola, Bhola, Goha	Hill trout, Indian trout
31.	<i>Cyprinus carpio carpio</i> Linnaeus	Carpio	Common carp
32.	<i>Semiplotus semiplotus</i> (McClelland)	Badangi	King fish

TABLE 1 (Contd.)

	Scientific names	Local names	English names
33.	<i>Puntius chola</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Tit puti	Green barb
34.	<i>Puntius clavatus clavatus</i> (McClelland)	Puti	Nil
35.	<i>Puntius conchoniis</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Kanchan puti	Stigma barb
36.	<i>Puntius gelius</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Puti	Nil
37.	<i>Puntius sarana sarana</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Swarna puti	Olive carp
38.	<i>Puntius sophore</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Sar puti	Stigma barb
39.	<i>Puntius ticto ticto</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Tit puti	Fire fin barb
40.	<i>Osteobrama cotio cotio</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Gila khani	Cotio
41.	<i>Schismatorhynchus</i> (<i>Nukta nukta</i>) (Sykes)	Nil	King fish
42.	<i>Labeo bata</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Bhangna	Bata
43.	<i>Labeo boga</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Bangum bata	Burmese fish, Jamuna fish
44.	<i>Labeo calbasu</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Kalbasu	Calbasu, Orange fin labeo
45.	<i>Labeo gonius</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Gonya	Nil
46.	<i>Labeo nandina</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Nandin	Nil
47.	<i>Labeo pangusia</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Loannee, Utti	Nil
48.	<i>Labeo rohita</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Rui, Rohu	Rohu
49.	<i>Chagunius chagunio</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Puti	Nil

TABLE 1 (Contd.)

	Scientific names	Local names	English names
50.	<i>Tor puitora</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Mahasol	Mahaseer
51.	<i>Tor tor</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Mahasol	Tor Mahaseer
52.	<i>Cirrhinus mrigala</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Mrigala, Mrigal	Mrigal
53.	<i>Cirrhinus reba</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Batta	Reba
54.	<i>Catla catla</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Catla	Catla
55.	<i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> (Valenciennes)	Grass carp	Grass carp
56.	<i>Crossocheilus latius latius</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Kalla batta	Latia
57.	<i>Garra gotyla gotyla</i> (Gray)	Ghor poia	Stone sucker
Family: PSILORHYNCHIDAE			
58.	<i>Psilorhynchus balitora</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Nil	Nil
59.	<i>Psilorhynchus sucatio</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Nil	Nil
Family: BALITORIDAE			
60.	<i>Noemacheilus botia</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Ranimach	Striped Loach
61.	<i>Noemacheilus scaturigina</i> (McClelland)	Ranimach	Loach
62.	<i>Noemacheilus spilopterus</i> (Valenciennes)	Ranimach	Loach
Family: COBITIDAE			
63.	<i>Botia dario</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Ranimach	Loach
64.	<i>Botia rostrata</i> Günther	Ranimach	Loach
65.	<i>Somileptes gongota</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Ghor poia	Nil
66.	<i>Lepidocephalus</i> (<i>Lepidocephalichthys</i>) <i>annandalei</i> Chaudhuri	Gunte, Gutum	Loach

TABLE 1 (Contd.)

Scientific names	Local names	English names
67. <i>Lepidocephalus</i> (<i>Lepidocephalichthys</i>) <i>berdmorei</i> (Blyth)	Gunte, Gutum	Loach
68. <i>Lepidocephalus</i> (<i>Lepidocephalichthys</i>) <i>guntea</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Gunte, Gutum	Loach
Family: BAGRIDAE		
69. <i>Rita rita</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Reta	Rita
70. <i>Batasio batasio</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Batasio	Batasio
71. <i>Mystus bleekeri</i> (Day)	Tengra	Nil
72. <i>Mystus cavasius</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Tengra	Dwarf cat fish
73. <i>Mystus vittatus</i> (Bloch)	Tengra	Striped dwarf cat fish
74. <i>Aorichthys aor</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Aor	Long whiskered cat fish
75. <i>Aorichthys seenghala</i> (Sykes)	Aor	Giant river cat fish
Family: SILURIDAE		
76. <i>Ompok bimaculatus</i> (Bloch)	Pabda	Butter cat-fish
77. <i>Ompok pabda</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Pabda	Butter cat-fish
78. <i>Wallago attu</i> (Schneider)	Boal	Freshwater shark
Family: SCHILBEIDAE		
79. <i>Ailia coila</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Kadali	Ailia
80. <i>Pseudeutropius</i> <i>atherinoides</i> (Bloch)	Patasi, Doya	Nil
81. <i>Clupisoma garua</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Gaoura	Gaura
82. <i>Clupisoma montana</i> Hora	Goura	Garua

TABLE 1 (Contd.)

	Scientific names	Local names	English names
83.	<i>Eutropiichthys murius</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Muribacha	Vacha
84.	<i>Eutropiichthys vacha</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Bacha	Vacha
85.	<i>Silonia silondia</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Shilong, Silon	Nil
86.	<i>Pangasius pangasius</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Pangash	Pangash
Family: AMBLYCIPITIDAE			
87.	<i>Amblyceps mangois</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Nil	Nil
Family: SISORIDAE			
88.	<i>Bagarius bagarius</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Bhagmach	Bagarius, Goonch
89.	<i>Gagata cenia</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Jungla	Gagata, Dwarf blotched cat fish
90.	<i>Nangra viridescens</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Nil	Nil
91.	<i>Erethistoides montana</i> <i>montana</i> Hora	Nil	Nil
92.	<i>Hara hara</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Gagot	Nil
93.	<i>Laguvia ribeiroi ribeiroi</i> Hora	Nil	Nil
94.	<i>Glyptothorax cavia</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Nil	Nil
95.	<i>Glyptothorax conirostrae</i> <i>conirostrae</i> (Steindachner)	Nil	Nil
96.	<i>Glyptothorax telchitta telchitta</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Nil	Nil
Family: CLARIIDAE			
97.	<i>Clarias batrachus</i> (Linnaeus)	Magur	Air breathing cat fish
Family: HETEROPNEUSTIDAE			
98.	<i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i> (Bloch)	Shing	Stinging cat fish

TABLE 1 (Contd.)

Scientific names	Local names	English names
Family: CHACIDAE		
99. <i>Chaca chaca</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Kutkutya	Chaca
Family: OLYRIDAE		
100. <i>Olyra kempfi</i> Chaudhuri	Bhotsinghi	Nil
101. <i>Olyra longicaudata</i> McClelland	Bhotsinghi	Nil
Family: BELONIDAE		
102. <i>Strongylura strongylura</i> (van Hasselt)	Kakhya, Kankle	Freshwater garfish
103. <i>Xenentodon cancila</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Kakhya, Kankle	Freshwater garfish
Family: CYPRINODONTIDAE		
104. <i>Alocheilus panchax</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Techokko	Lesser top minnow, Panchax minnow,
Family: CHANNIDAE		
105. <i>Channa barca</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Chenga, Bora-cheng	Nil
106. <i>Channa marulius</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Gajal	Giant snakehead murrel
107. <i>Channa orientalis</i> Schneider	Cheng	Brown snakehead fish
108. <i>Channa punctatus</i> (Bloch)	Taki, Lata	Green snakehead fish
109. <i>Channa striatus</i> (Bloch)	Shol, Chena	Striped snakehead fish
Family: SYNBRANCHIDAE		
110. <i>Monopterusuchia</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Kuchia	Freshwater eel, Cuchia
Family: CHANDIDAE		
111. <i>Chanda baculis</i> Hamilton-Buchanan	Chanda	Glassy perchlet
112. <i>Chanda nama</i> Hamilton-Buchanan	Chanda	Glassy perchlet
113. <i>Chanda raga</i> Hamilton-Buchanan	Chanda	Indian glass fish

TABLE 1 (Contd.)

Scientific names	Local names	English names
Family: SCIAENIDAE		
114. <i>Johnius coitor</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Bola Bhetki	Croaker fish
Family: NANDIDAE		
115. <i>Badis badis</i> Hamilton-Buchanan	Bot-koi	Badis
116. <i>Nandus nandus</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Nadosh	Nandus
Family: CICHLIDAE		
117. <i>Oreochromis mossambica</i> (Peters)	Tilapia	Tilapia
Family: MUGILIDAE		
118. <i>Sicamugil cascasia</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Nadis bata, Parshey	Yellow tail mullet
119. <i>Rhinomugil corsula</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Nadir bata	Corsula mullet
Family: GOBIIDAE		
120. <i>Glossogobius giuris</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Belay or Bhalia	Bar-eyed goby
121. <i>Apocryptes bato</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Cheng	Nil
Family: ANABANTIDAE		
122. <i>Anabas testudineus</i> (Bloch)	Koi	Climbing perch
Family: BELONTIDAE		
123. <i>Colisa fasciata</i> (Schneider)	Khalisha	Banded colisa
124. <i>Colisa sota</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Chuna Khalisha	Nil
Family: OSPHRONEMIDAE		
125. <i>Osphronemus goramy</i> Lacépède	Nil	Gouramy
Family: MASTACEMBELIDAE		
126. <i>Macrornathus aculeatus</i> (Bloch)	Goichi	Lesser spiny eel
127. <i>Mastacembelus armatus</i> Lacépède	Baim	Spiny eel

TABLE 1 (Contd.)

Scientific names	Local names	English names
128. <i>Mastacembelus pancalus</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Baim	Spiny eel
Family: TETRAODONTIDAE		
129. <i>Tetraodon cutcutia</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	Tepa, Gangatape	Ocellated bow fish

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